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INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KUALA LUMPUR 001636

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/30/2016  
TAGS: PHUM PREL PGOV PINR KISL MY  
SUBJECT: PROMINENT HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER FACES DEATH THREAT

REF: A. KUALA LUMPUR 680 B. KUALA LUMPUR 1516

Classified By: Political Section Chief Mark D. Clark for reasons 1.4 b, d.

Summary

1. (C) Prominent Muslim lawyer and human rights activist Malik Imtiaz has become the target of a death threat printed on a leaflet and distributed. Religious Tensions Culminate in Death Threat

2. (SBU) The death threat against Imtiaz came to light after the Muslim Youth Movement (ABIM) exposed the threatening leaflet to the press on

3. (SBU) As a prominent human rights lawyer, President of the Human Rights Society of Malaysia (HAKAM), and former Secretary of the Malaysian

4. (C) Imtiaz told us that he believes several newly established Muslim activist groups orchestrated the death threat, but he did not provide

Mosques Used to "Defend Islam" Against Apostasy

5. (C) While Imtiaz has faced the opprobrium of many Muslims for his outspoken stances on religious freedom issues, recent criticism by some

6. (C) At these mosque-based events in Kuala Lumpur, organizers handed out two pamphlets to tens of thousands of Muslim faithful that urged the

Silence from the Governing Coalition

7. (C) While the death threat against Imtiaz was immediately criticized by many Muslim and non-Muslim leaders, we are not aware of senior public

8. (C) Comment: The death threat against Imtiaz followed a series of emotional clashes in recent months that pitted self-described "defenders

SHEAR